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MODEL SYLLABUS

"AMERICANS ABROAD" COURSE

1. Scope. The Americans Abroad course examines major personal problems distinctive to a particular foreign country, which can be anticipated by CIA personnel planning to go there.

2. Objectives. The purpose of the course is mainly professional—to alert the employee to specific area characteristics which might: (a) cause him personal difficulties or embarrassment as either a U. S. Government or a CIA employee; or (b) be utilized to personal advantage for the better performance of his official duties. This course is intended to fill a need which is not being met by either the Department of State or other components of CIA. Briefings presently available to outgoing personnel concentrate on the general problems of all concerned—with only slight attention to area characteristics—or on the mechanics rather than the challenge of new ideas connected with foreign travel or residence. Furthermore, present facilities are not open to all outgoing CIA personnel.

3. Users. Phases one and two of this course (see para. 4) are intended for all Agency employees who are planning to go to the country concerned within the foreseeable future. Adult dependents may be admitted to certain unclassified portions of these phases. Phase three is intended exclusively for personnel of the BDP.

4. Content. The course consists of three main phases. The first is a brief survey of the physical differences (e.g., climate, transportation, accommodations, customs) to expect upon entering the country concerned. The second is a brief presentation of its government's policies as well as of

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official and unofficial attitudes toward the United States and toward Americans in the country, from the viewpoint of how these may affect the employee personally. The third phase, which takes up approximately half of the total class hours, is a follow-up on the second, emphasizing special personal problems encountered by American intelligence personnel in the line of duty in the country concerned. It is based on the personal field experiences of CIA personnel, who are invited as appropriate to lead the discussions. As security considerations permit, these discussions get down to specific cases with which either the group leaders or the members of the classes are familiar. In view of the wide variations in the security considerations, as well as in the personal experiences and professional interests involved in these discussions, no uniform pattern of course content for this phase can be established.

5. Schedules. According to student demand, classes meet either: (a) once a week, in a two-hour session, for ten weeks; or (b) five times a week, in a half-day session, for a single week. Under the first of these alternatives, this course runs concurrently with the corresponding Basic Country Survey course for the convenience of those wishing to take a full-time Omnibus Program on the country concerned.

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